WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method of inherently managing the functionality of a
2   device, said method comprising:
3   generating a command descriptor block using a
4   functionality value, the functionality value
.5   corresponding to a functionality level of the device;
6   and

7   sending the command descriptor block to the device,
8   the command descriptor block adapted to inherently
9   change the functionality of the device corresponding
10   to the functionality value.

1   2.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2   sending a functionality request to a vendor; and

3   receiving a key from the vendor in response to the
4   request, the key including the functionality value and
5   a password.

1   3.   The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
2   extracting the functionality value and the password
3   from the key; and

4   inserting the functionality value and the password in
5   the command descriptor block.

1   4.   The method as described in claim 3 further comprising:
2   receiving the command descriptor block at the device;

3   extracting the password from the command descriptor
4   block at the device;

5   determining whether the password is valid at the

6   device; and

7   receiving a password error message from the device

8   based upon the determination.

1   5.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

2   receiving the command descriptor block at the device;

3   extracting the functionality value from the command

4   descriptor block at the device;

5   determining whether the functionality value is valid

6   at the device; and

7   receiving a functionality error message from the

8   device based upon the determination.

1   6.   The method as described in claim 1 wherein the command

2   descriptor block is sent to the device from a vendor.

1   7.   The method as described in claim 1 wherein the device

2   includes a SCSI interface and wherein the command

3   descriptor block is a SCSI command descriptor block.

1   8.   An information handling system comprising:

2   one or more processors;

3   a memory accessible by the processors;

4   one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by

5   the processors; and

6   a functionality management tool for managing the

7   functionality of a device, the functionality

8   management tool comprising software code effective to:

9   generate a command descriptor block using a
10   functionality value, the functionality value
11   corresponding to a functionality level of
12   the device; and

13   send the command descriptor block to the
14   device, the command descriptor block adapted
15   to inherently change the functionality of
16   the device corresponding to the
17   functionality value.

1   9.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   8 wherein the software code is further effective to:
3   send a functionality request to a vendor; and

4   receive a key from the vendor in response to the
5   request, the key including the functionality value and
6   a password.

1   10. The information handling system as described in claim
2   9 wherein the software code is further effective to:
3   extract the functionality value and the password from
4   the key; and

5   insert the functionality value and the password in the
6   command descriptor block.

1   11. The information handling system as described in claim
2   10 wherein the software code is further effective to:
3   receive the command descriptor block at the device;

4   extract the password from the command descriptor block
5   at the device;

6   determine whether the password is valid at the device;

7   and

8   receive a password error message from the device based

9   upon the determination.

1   12.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   8 wherein the software code is further effective to:

3   receive the command descriptor block at the device;

4   extract the functionality value from the command

5   descriptor block at the device;

6   determine whether the functionality value is valid at

7   the device; and

8   receive a functionality error message from the device

9   based upon the determination.

1   13.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   8 wherein the command descriptor block is sent to the

3   device from a vendor.

1   14.   A computer program product stored on a computer

2   operable media for managing a device's functionality,

3   said computer program product comprising:

4   means for generating a command descriptor block using

5   a functionality value, the functionality value

6   corresponding to a functionality level of the device;

7   and

8   means for sending the command descriptor block to the

9   device, the command descriptor block adapted to

10   inherently change the functionality of the device

11   corresponding to the functionality value.

1   15.   The computer program product as described in claim 14
2   further comprising:
3   means for sending a functionality request to a vendor;
4   and

5   means for receiving a key from the vendor in response
6   to the request, the key including the functionality
7   value and a password.

1   16.   The computer program product as described in claim 15
2   further comprising:
3   means for extracting the functionality value and the
4   password from the key; and

5   means for inserting the functionality value and the
6   password in the command descriptor block.

1   17.   The computer program product as described in claim 16
2   further comprising:
3   means for receiving the command descriptor block at
4   the device;

5   means for extracting the password from the command
6   descriptor block at the device;

7   means for determining whether the password is valid at
8   the device; and

9   means for receiving a password error message from the
10   device based upon the determination.

1   18.   The computer program product as described in claim 14
2   further comprising:

3   means for receiving the command descriptor block at

4   the device;

5   means for extracting the functionality value from the

6   command descriptor block at the device;

7   means for determining whether the functionality value

8   is valid at the device; and

9   means for receiving a functionality error message from

10   the device based upon the determination.

1   19. The computer program product as described in claim 14

2   wherein the command descriptor block is sent to the

3   device from a vendor.

1   20. The computer program product as described in claim 14

2   wherein the device includes a SCSI interface and

3   wherein the command descriptor block is a SCSI command

4   descriptor block.